

I4 Essex thy death's reveng'd, Lo here I lie

Notes. Explicitly sceptical of the stated legal grounds for Raleigh's execution, this poem nevertheless presents Raleigh's death, like that of Robert Cecil in 1612, as just punishment for both men's factional pursuit and eventual destruction of Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex.

"On Sir Walter Rawleigh"

Essex¹ thy death's reveng'd, Lo here I lie

Att whose blood shed thy innocence may cry,

Now Rawleigh quitts, I died not (as all see)

So much to satisfy the law, as thee.

Thou hadst an other foe,² hee went before,

The French undid us both,³ but him the whore.

My soules just greife is this; The world will please

To say wee two died of the same disease.

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Source. Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. e.14, fol. 95v

Other known sources. Raleigh, *Poems* 20; Nottingham MS Portland PW V 37, p. 37; Folger MS V.a.103, fol. 20v

I4

¹ *Essex*: Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, executed for treason in 1601.

² *an other foe*: Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, widely assumed to have engineered Essex's fall and execution (see Sections A and D).

³ *The French undid us both*: Raleigh was investigated in 1618 for supposed treasonous ties to the French; Cecil was alleged to have died of syphilis, colloquially known as the "French" or "French pox" (see Section D). The pun on "French" governs the last three lines of the poem.